

obligation to make our system as equitable as possible. Am I more inclined to vote for a tax increase when the system is more equitably distributed, I think, is the nature of your question. And the answer is that, no, I generally have to meet my constitutional duty to balance the budget and I'll raise taxes no matter what the equitable shape of the income tax system is because it's within the realm of acceptability on that score.

SENATOR MOORE: And I...one final question, Senator Landis. Were you part of the discussion on this measure that said if we passed LB 240, you would not be supporting any sort of income tax rate changes then later on in the session? I know some were part of that discussion, I was just asking if you personally were.

SENATOR LANDIS: I certainly don't recall it, Senator Moore. I will tell you this. Senator Vrtiska, the other day, asked me about the budget and the issue, and I said to him, when this session gets done we'll balance the budget. Yes, I want to cut money from the budget. In the end, I'll have to...if I have to, I will raise taxes but I will balance the budget, it's a constitutional duty. I would like to cut budgets first. If I have to, I'll raise taxes, but I'll meet my constitutional duty.

SENATOR MOORE: I will take excerpts from that speech when I have a budget cut before me, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: That's fair enough.

SENATOR MOORE: You know, one of the things...the word on the street obviously has always been that the Governor at least has always said, if you pass 240, I'll veto any income tax increase that comes along, and that's why many people were bought up on the bill and I understand that, but certainly I think we abdicate our responsibility when we behave like that because I don't know what you're going to do. I mean, I have never voted for one other than for 1059. I don't plan on voting on one this year, but I...I like to have the option there and I think by passing 240, at least in many people's minds, you're precluding that option and that's why they want to get it done and I understand that. You know, I simply want once again to rise, oppose LB 240 on the grounds that it's been oversold on what it does. And Senator Landis has been very forthright in saying to shi...for him personally it has nothing to do with 773, I think and I understand, I respect that, but for many people the whole